

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending in this application.

Claim 11 has been withdrawn pending allowance of a generic claim.

Claims 1, 20, 22 and 29 are in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite the external or exposed coating portions.

In view of which, the rejection for lack of novelty is no longer applicable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 20, 21 and 29 in view of the combination of Perry (WO 94/14390 A1) and Ragheb et al. (WO 98/36784 A1) on the ground that the two references are not logically combinable.

Although both references deal with “implants,” Perry discloses a prosthesis while Ragheb et al. discloses a therapeutic agent delivery device.

The invention is directed to the problem of anchoring a prosthetic implant to surrounding tissue; Ragheb et al. is not concerned with such a problem. Ragheb et al. teaches a means for delivery of diverse therapeutic agents, not a means for binding with the surrounding tissue in different manners. A person searching for ways of providing a plurality of bonding zones for a permanently implanted prosthesis would have no motivation to look into disclosures of drug delivery systems. The Ragheb device is designed to deliver several agents at the same location, not at two or more locations. The geometry of the two drug-delivering portions is of little significance. By contrast, the invention discloses means for interfacing with two distinct zones in the host and in two different manners. It can be seen that Ragheb et al. is not pertinent to the problem facing the

inventor and teaches nothing toward its solution.

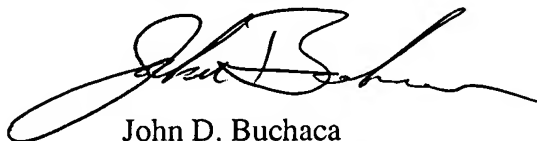
Claim 20 has been amended to recite the orbital nature of the implant within the body of the claim.

Support for this amendment may be found in USPN 6,248,130 incorporated in the Specification.

This amendment further distinguishes the claimed structure from the device in Ragheb et al.

An early allowance of all the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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